

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 62, 64, 70 and 72. Please amend claims 59, 63, 67 and 71 as shown below. A full listing of all claims is as follows.

1-35. (Canceled).

36. (Previously Presented) A method for applying a coating to a stent comprising the steps of:

providing a stent to be coated, the stent comprising a plurality of struts connected at a plurality of junctions;

supporting the stent for coating;

placing a first agent into a first chamber connected to a first solenoid fluid dispensing head;

placing the first agent under pressure such that the first agent is dispensed from the first solenoid dispensing head when the first solenoid dispensing head is open and the first agent is not dispensed from the first solenoid dispensing head when the first solenoid dispensing head is closed;

providing a processor to control the opening and closing of the first solenoid valve dispensing head;

rotating the stent with respect to the first solenoid fluid dispensing head;

opening the first solenoid fluid dispensing head when a strut of the stent that is desired to be coated with the first agent is adjacent the first solenoid fluid dispensing head, thereby causing the first agent to be dispensed from the first solenoid fluid dispensing head onto the desired strut of the stent; and

closing the first solenoid fluid dispensing head when a junction of the stent is adjacent the first solenoid fluid dispensing head, thereby preventing the pressurized first agent from being dispensed from the first solenoid fluid dispensing head onto the junction.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising:

forcing a second agent from a second solenoid fluid dispensing head onto the stent.

38-40. (Canceled).

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37 wherein at least one of the first agent and the second agent includes at least one of:

a drug suspended in a polymer, a non-thrombogenic agent, a lubricious material, a non-slippery material, a radioactive agent, and a magnetic material.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37 wherein the first solenoid fluid dispensing head and the second solenoid fluid dispensing head are in fluid communication with a common nozzle.

43-48. (Canceled).

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein the first agent includes at least one of:

a drug suspended in a polymer, a non-thrombogenic agent, a lubricious material, a non-slippery material, a radioactive agent, and a magnetic material.

50-51. (Canceled).

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein the first agent includes a therapeutic agent.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37 wherein the second agent includes a therapeutic agent.

54-58. (Canceled).

59. (Currently Amended) A method for applying a coating to a stent comprising the steps of:

providing a stent to be coated;
supporting the stent for coating;
connecting a source of a coating material to a solenoid fluid dispensing head;

placing the coating material under continuous pressure such that the coating material is dispensed from the solenoid fluid dispensing head when the solenoid fluid dispensing head is activated;

providing a processor to control the opening and closing of the solenoid fluid dispensing head;

moving at least one of the stent or the solenoid fluid dispensing head to cause relative movement between the stent and the solenoid fluid dispensing head;

opening the solenoid fluid dispensing head when a part of the stent that is desired to be coated with the coating material is adjacent the solenoid fluid dispensing head, thereby causing the coating material to be dispensed from the solenoid fluid dispensing head onto the desired part of the stent; and

closing the solenoid fluid dispensing head when no part of the stent that is desired to be coated with the coating material is adjacent the solenoid fluid dispensing head, thereby preventing the coating material from being dispensed from the solenoid fluid dispensing head, wherein the step of closing the solenoid fluid dispensing head comprises refraining from dispensing the coating material onto junctions between struts of the stent.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein the coating material comprises a therapeutic agent.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein the coating material comprises a therapeutic agent suspended in a polymer.

62. (Canceled).

63. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 59 wherein the step of closing the solenoid fluid dispensing head further comprises refraining from dispensing the coating material into spaces between struts of the stent.

64. (Canceled).

65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein the step of moving at least one of the stent or the solenoid fluid dispensing head includes rotating the stent.

66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein the step of moving at least one of the stent or the solenoid fluid dispensing head includes sliding the solenoid fluid dispensing head in a linear direction.

67. (Currently Amended) A method for applying a coating to a stent comprising the steps of:

- providing a stent to be coated;
- supporting the stent for coating;
- connecting a source of a coating material to a dispensing head;
- placing the coating material under continuous pressure such that the coating material is dispensed from the dispensing head when the dispensing head is activated;
- providing a processor to control the dispensing of coating by the dispensing head;

- moving at least one of the stent or the dispensing head to cause relative movement between the stent and the dispensing head;

- controlling the dispensing of coating material such that the coating material is dispensed from the dispensing head when a part of the stent that is desired to be coated with the coating material is adjacent the dispensing head, thereby causing the coating material to be dispensed from the dispensing head onto the desired part of the stent; and

- controlling the dispensing of coating material such that the coating material is not dispensed from the dispensing head when no part of the stent that is desired to be coated with the coating material is adjacent the dispensing head, thereby preventing the coating material from being dispensed from the dispensing head, wherein the step of controlling the dispensing of coating material such that the coating material is not dispensed from the dispensing head comprises refraining from dispensing the coating material onto junctions between struts of the stent.

68. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67 wherein the coating material comprises a therapeutic agent.

69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67 wherein the coating material comprises a therapeutic agent suspended in a polymer.

70. (Canceled).

71. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 67 wherein the step of controlling the dispensing of coating material such that the coating material is not dispensed from the dispensing head further comprises refraining from dispensing the coating material into spaces between struts of the stent.

72. (Canceled).

73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67 wherein the step of moving at least one of the stent or the dispensing head includes rotating the stent.

74. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67 wherein the step of moving at least one of the stent or the dispensing head includes sliding the dispensing head in a linear direction.